

**REMARKS**

**I.       Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 11 are currently pending in the application and are rejected.

Upon entry of this response, Claim 1, 6, and 8 will be amended, and Claim 2 will be cancelled.

No new matter is added. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

**II.       Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 1-3, 5, 6, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,642,960 to Kohashi et al. (“Kohashi”) in further view of JP 2001016509A to Shiomi (“Shiomi”). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohashi in further view of US 5,335,008 to Hamasaki (“Hamasaki”) in further view of Shiomi. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohashi in further view of Examiner’s Official Notice in further view of Shiomi.

Independent Claims 1, 6, and 8 are directed to arrangements involving creating one-dimensional correction data in the horizontal direction by performing computation using signals which are acquired by image sensing in an unexposed state and smaller in number than said plurality of pixel, and correcting image data of said plurality of pixels for image data of each array of pixels arrayed in horizontal direction, acquired by image sensing in an exposed state, by using the one-dimensional correction data in horizontal direction.

Claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 2. Thus, these claims have been amended to include that the one-dimensional correction data is

created by changing the number of signals to be used in accordance with the sensitivity condition set at the time of image sensing.

The Examiner asserts that Kohashi teaches changing the number of signals in accordance with a sensitivity condition set at the time of image sensing, citing Figures 9A-9K and column 14, lines 59 et seq., while Shiomi teaches that the correction is one-dimensional data in the horizontal direction.

However, none of the cited references teaches or suggests changing the number of signals in accordance with sensitivity condition. Kohashi discloses an approach to identify, and compensate for, defective pixels by detecting the signal levels of a plurality of pixels surrounding the faulty pixel, forming the surrounding pixels into groups in relation to the faulty pixel, determining the relative signal value of each pixel in each group, and comparing the pattern of the relative signal values with previously set values to determine the image configuration of the surrounding region. (column 14, line 13 – column 15, line 67). This approach is different from the claimed features. Thus, Kohashi does not appear to teach or suggest changing the number of signals in accordance with the sensitivity condition set at the time of image sensing, and none of the other cited references appears to teach or suggest this feature.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5309.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5309.

Respectfully submitted,  
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